GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2743
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
PROTECTED FOREST LAND
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pavements on either sides of NH-26 passing through Lalitpur district in U.P. came under the protected forest area;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India has issued No-Objection Certificate for forestry use of forest land meant for widening of said NH-26 by NHAI;

(c) if so, whether protected forest land has been transferred to NHAI for widening of the said NH;

(d) if not, whether NHAI has widened the said NH on protected forest land without transfer of said land;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to take action against persons / bodies/ organization and forest officers for carrying out road widening work on protected forest land;

(f) if so, the time by when it is proposed to be taken; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The areas on both sides of Highways have been declared as Protected Forest by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for widening of National Highway-26 in Lalitpur District are at various stages of processing in the Central Government. However, violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, has come to the notice of the Central Government. Penal compensatory afforestation has been stipulated in the in-principle approval issued by the Central Government in respect of one stretch of the National Highway-26. Further, the State Government has been requested to furnish the details of persons / organizations responsible for the violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to take necessary action against them.